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practicable, such funds shall be returned pro rata to the persons from whom such funds were collected.

 $[27\ FR\ 6818,\ July\ 19,\ 1962,\ as\ amended\ at\ 29\ FR\ 9707,\ July\ 18,\ 1964;\ 43\ FR\ 4253,\ Feb.\ 1,\ 1978]$

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

§ 987.76 Compliance.

No handler shall handle any dates (including dates for further processing) except in conformity with, and as authorized by or pursuant to, the applicable provisions of this part, including but not being limited to the regulations relating to grade, size, and volume; and no handler shall use or otherwise dispose of restricted dates or any other dates which have not been certified for handling or for further processing except in conformity with, and as authorized by or pursuant to, the applicable provisions of this part.

§ 987.77 Personal liability.

No member or alternate member of the committee, or any employee or agent thereof, shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly with others, in any way whatsoever, to any handler or any other person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts either of commission or omission, as such member, alternate member, agent, or employee, except for acts of dishonesty, willful misconduct or gross negligence.

§ 987.78 Separability.

If any provision of this part is declared invalid, or the applicability thereof to any person, circumstance, or thing is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this part or the applicability of this part to any other person, circumstance, or thing shall not be affected thereby.

§ 987.79 Derogation.

Nothing contained in this part is, or shall be construed to be, in derogation or in modification of the rights of the Secretary or of the United States to exercise any powers granted by the act or otherwise, or, in accordance with such powers, to act in the premises whenever such action is deemed advisable.

§ 987.80 Duration of immunities.

The benefits, privileges, and immunities conferred upon any person by virtue of this subpart shall cease upon its termination except with respect to acts done under and during its existence.

§ 987.81 Agents.

The Secretary may, by a designation in writing, name any person, including any officer or employee of the United States Government, or name any bureau or division of the United States Department of Agriculture, to act as his agent or representative in connection with any of the provisions of this part.

§ 987.82 Effective time, suspension, or termination.

- (a) Effective time. The provisions of this part, as well as any amendments hereto, shall become effective at such time as the Secretary may declare, and shall continue in force until terminated or suspended in one of the ways hereinafter specified in this section.
- (b) Suspension or termination—(1) Failure to effectuate policy of act. The Secretary shall terminate or suspend the operation of any or all of the provisions of this part, whenever he finds that such provisions do not tend to effectuate the declared policy of the act.
- (2) When favored by growers. The Secretary shall terminate the provisions of this part at the end of any crop year whenever he finds that such termination is favored by a majority of the growers of dates who, during that crop year, have been engaged in the production for market of dates in the area of production: Provided, That such majority have, during such period, produced for market more than 50 percent of the volume of such dates produced for market within said area; but such termination shall be effective only if announced on or before August 1 of the then current crop year.
- (3) If enabling legislation is terminated. The provisions of this part shall, in any event, terminate whenever the provisions of the act authorizing them cease to be in effect.
- (c) Proceedings after termination—(1) Designation of trustees. Upon the termination of the provisions hereof, the